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Commission on Science and Technology for Development

Report on the tenth session (21-25 May 2007)

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Note

Symbols of United Nations documents are composed of capital letters combined with figures. Mention of such a symbol indicates a reference to a United Nations document.

Summary

At its tenth session, the Commission on Science and Technology for Development addressed its substantive theme "Promoting the building of a people-centred, development-oriented and inclusive information society", focusing also on the review of the progress made in the implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society at the regional and international levels. The Commission identified achievements, gaps and challenges as well as future actions needed to advance their implementation. Participants included ministers, representatives of Governments, civil society, the private sector, international organizations and others. The session also provided an opportunity to raise awareness about the importance of science and technology for development and to discuss modalities of follow-up to the outcomes of the World Summit. The Commission also developed a multi-year work programme.

Under the substantive theme, the Commission recommended to the Economic and Social Council the adoption of a resolution on the flow of information for the follow-up to the World Summit on the Information Society, in which the Council would take note of the report of the Secretary-General on the substantive theme and extend its appreciation to the Secretary-General of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) for his role in producing the report in due time. The Council would also acknowledge the importance of further refinement to improve the reporting process to facilitate the follow-up to the World Summit. In this connection, it would make a number of recommendations to entities responsible for outcome implementation and follow-up, to ensure adequate flow of information between the implementation and follow-up processes.

As requested by the Council in its resolution 2006/46, the Commission agreed on a multi-year work programme that would allow it to undertake annually a review and assessment of progress made at the international and regional levels in the implementation of World Summit outcomes, while also focusing, in each biennium, on a specific theme related to the building of the information society, with a view to bridging the digital divide. In addition, the Commission would continue to examine, within its original mandate, the implications of science and technology for development.

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Chapter I

Matters calling for action by the Economic and Social Council or brought to its attention

A. Draft resolution for adoption by the Council

1. The Commission on Science and Technology for Development recommends to the Economic and Social Council the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Flow of information for the follow-up to the World Summit on the Information Society*

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling the outcome documents of the World Summit on the Information Society,[1]

Recalling also its resolution 2006/46 on the follow-up to the World Summit on the Information Society and review of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development,

Taking note of the substantive theme of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development for 2007 "Promoting the building of a people-centred, development-oriented and inclusive information society, with a view to enhancing digital opportunities for all people",

Recognizing the spontaneous flow of information towards the production of the report of the Secretary-General on promoting the building of a people-centred, development-oriented and inclusive information society: progress made in the implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society,[2]

Acknowledging the importance of further refinement to improve the reporting process to facilitate the World Summit follow-up,

Welcoming the development of the World Summit cluster of events organized by action line facilitators and United Nations regional commissions in Geneva during the celebration of the World Information Society Day, 17 May 2007,

Welcoming also multi-stakeholder participation in the Summit and its follow-up as a constructive way of dealing with present and future challenges in building the information society and recalling its decisions 2007/215 and 2007/216 of 26 April 2007,

Recalling that, while using the multi-stakeholder approach effectively, the intergovernmental nature of the Commission should be preserved,

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General,

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* For the discussion, see chap. III, paras. 43-49.

[1] The outcome documents of the World Summit on the Information Society are available from www.itu.int/wsis/.

[2] E/CN.16/2007/2.

Extending its appreciation to the Secretary-General of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development for his role in helping to complete the aforementioned report in a timely manner,

1. *Requests* the Secretary-General to inform the Commission on Science and Technology for Development annually on the implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society, including all e-applications;

2. *Takes note* of the request to the Secretary-General to start a process towards enhanced cooperation, as referred to in paragraphs 69 to 71 of the Tunis Agenda for the Information Society of the second phase of the Summit,[3] and expects information thereon, to be included in his annual report;

3. *Requests* the United Nations organizations acting as action line facilitators, United Nations regional commissions, main theme facilitators, the Global Alliance for Information and Communications Technologies and Development and other entities, as appropriate, to submit to the secretariat of the Commission their respective reports as inputs towards the elaboration of the annual report of the Secretary-General to the Commission, with their own executive summaries, in a timely manner;

4. *Requests* the secretariat of the Commission to use to the extent possible the above-mentioned executive summaries to draft the annual report of the Secretary-General on the follow-up to the outcomes of the World Summit;

5. *Also requests* the secretariat of the Commission to publish the submitted respective reports on its website in their original language as contributions to the next session of the Commission;

6. *Requests* action line facilitators and United Nations regional commissions to establish and keep channels of communication with all stakeholders and include their implementation efforts in their respective reports, as appropriate;

7. *Invites* all stakeholders to establish and/or to keep open channels of communication with action line facilitators and/or United Nations regional commissions and to report to them their implementation efforts, so that such efforts may be appropriately reflected, and the relevant knowledge, practices and outcomes shared for the benefit of all;

8. *Recommends* that the Summit cluster of events be held annually in Geneva back to back with the World Information Society Day observed on 17 May and close enough to the session of the Commission, allow for the scheduling in the Commission agenda of an interactive dialogue with United Nations regional commissions and another with the leading facilitating agencies, both of which should include the participation of all Summit stakeholders and serve as a linkage between implementation and follow-up.

[3] See the note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the World Summit on the Information Society (A/60/687).

B. Draft decision for adoption by the Council

2. The Commission on Science and Technology for Development recommends to the Economic and Social Council the adoption of the following draft decision:

Report of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development on its tenth session and provisional agenda and documentation for the eleventh session of the Commission

The Economic and Social Council:

(a) Takes note of the report of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development on its tenth session;[4]

(b) Approves the provisional agenda and documentation for the eleventh session of the Commission as set out below.

Provisional agenda and documentation for the eleventh session of the Commission

1. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters.

2. Substantive themes:

   (a) "Development-oriented policies for a socio-economic inclusive information society, including access, infrastructure and an enabling environment";

   Documentation

   Report of the Secretary-General

   (b) "Science, technology and engineering for innovation and capacity-building in education and research".

   Documentation

   Report of the Secretary-General

3. Progress made in the implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society at the regional and international levels.

   Documentation

   Report of the Secretary-General

4. Implementation of and progress made on decisions taken at the tenth session of the Commission.

5. Election of the Chairperson and other officers for the twelfth session of the Commission.

[4] *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2006, Supplement No. 11* (E/2007/31).

6. Provisional agenda and documentation for the twelfth session of the Commission.

7. Adoption of the report of the Commission on its eleventh session.

C. Decisions brought to the attention of the Council

3. The following decisions adopted by the Commission on Science and Technology for Development are brought to the attention of the Economic and Social Council:

Decision 10/101
Multi-year work programme of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development

The Commission on Science and Technology for Development, in response to the request of the Economic and Social Council in its resolution 2006/46, and recalling the Commission's mandate as contained in paragraphs 4, 5 and 6 of that resolution, decides to adopt the following multi-year work programme underpinned by a strong development orientation:

(a) To focus in each biennium on a specific theme related to the building of the information society, with a view to narrowing the digital divide, including but not limited to:

(i) Development-oriented policies for a socio-economic inclusive information society, including access, infrastructure and an enabling environment;

(ii) Improvements and innovations in existing financing mechanisms;

(iii) Measuring the information society;

(iv) Multi-stakeholder partnerships for building the information society;

(v) Innovation, research, technology transfer for mutual advantage, entrepreneurship and collaborative development in the information society;

(b) To examine, within its original mandate, the implications of science and technology for development, with particular attention to the following areas:

(i) Science, technology and engineering for innovation and capacity-building in education and research;

(ii) New and emerging technologies;

(iii) Virtual science libraries and geospatial analysis of development issues;

(iv) Technologies to address challenges in areas such as energy, agriculture, water and health care.

Decision 10/102
Documents considered by the Commission on Science and Technology for Development at its tenth session

The Commission on Science and Technology for Development takes note of the note by the secretariat of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development on the implementation of and progress made on decisions taken at the ninth session of the Commission (E/CN.16/2007/3).

Chapter II

Organizational matters: multi-year work programme

1. At its 8th meeting, on 25 May 2007, the Commission had before it a draft decision, circulated in an informal paper, entitled "Multi-year work programme of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development", presented by the Chairman on the basis of informal consultations.

2. Following statements by the representatives of Lesotho, the United States of America, Brazil, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Cuba, India, France, Egypt, China, Argentina, the Sudan, Jamaica, the Russian Federation, Chile, Sri Lanka, Oman and Belgium, the Commission adopted the draft decision (see chap. I, sect. C, draft decision 10/101).

Chapter III

Substantive theme: "Promoting the building of a people-centred, development-oriented and inclusive information society, with a view to enhancing digital opportunities for all people"

Progress made in the implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society at the regional and international levels

1. The Commission considered items 2 and 3 of its agenda at its 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th, 6th, 7th and 8th meetings, on 21, 22, 23, 24 and 25 May 2007. It had before it the following documents:

(a) Report of the Secretary-General on promoting the building of a people-centred, development-oriented and inclusive information society: progress made in the implementation of and follow-up to the World Summit on the Information Society outcomes (E/CN.16/2007/2);

(b) Report on the panel discussion on promoting the building of a people-centred, development-oriented and inclusive information society (E/CN.16/2007/CRP.1);

(c) Note by the secretariat on activities undertaken by relevant United Nations entities in the implementation of outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society (E/CN.16/2007/CRP.2).

2. At its 2nd meeting, on 21 May, the Commission heard introductory statements under the items by the Chief of the Science and Technology Section of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), complemented by the statement of the representative of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU).

3. At the same meeting, the Commission held a ministerial segment of the general discussion, moderated by Jānis Kārklinš (Latvia).

4. Also at the same meeting, statements were made by the Minister of Communication and New Technologies of Mali; the Federal Minister of Science and Technology of Pakistan; the Minister of Communications, Science and Technology of Lesotho; the Deputy Minister of the Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation of Malaysia; the Secretary of State for Higher Education, Science and Technology of the Dominican Republic; the Secretary of State for Communications of Argentina; the Head of the Supreme Council for Information and Communications Technology of the Islamic Republic of Iran; the Secretary-General of the Research Council of Oman; the Secretary of the Ministry of Environment, Science and Technology of Nepal; the Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Bureau of Oceans, Environment and Scientific Affairs of the United States of America; and the Permanent Representative of Rwanda to the United Nations Office at Geneva.

5. At the same meeting, the Commission continued its general discussion and heard statements by the representatives of Honduras (on behalf of the Group of 77 and China), Brazil, Chile, Italy and Austria.

6. Also at the same meeting, on 23 May, statements were made by the representatives of the Sudan, the United States of America, Angola, Zambia, Sri Lanka, Chile, Germany (on behalf of the European Union), the Russian Federation, Argentina, India, China, Brazil, the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela and Cuba.

7. Statements were made by the representatives of the Economic Commission for Europe, the Economic Commission for Africa, the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean and the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia.

8. Statements were also made by the representative of the World Health Organization (WHO) and the representative of the Gender Advisory Board of the Commission.

9. At the 6th meeting, on 23 May, statements were made by the representatives of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Jamaica and El Salvador.

10. A statement was also made by the representative of Honduras (on behalf of the Group of 77 and China).

11. Statements were also made by the representatives of the following entities: the Ecole Nationale Supérieure de Techniques Avancées; Humanity First; the International Chamber of Commerce; IT for Change; the Digital Solidarity Fund; the Conference of Non-Governmental Organizations in Consultative Relationship with the United Nations; the Association for Progressive Communications; and Ingénieurs du monde.

Panel discussion on the theme "Information and Communications Technologies for Development: a follow-up to the World Summit on the Information Society"

12. At its 3rd and 4th meetings, on 22 May, the Commission held a panel discussion on the theme "Information and Communications Technologies for development: a follow-up to the World Summit on the Information Society", with the Global Alliance for Information and Communications Technologies and Development.[5]

13. The Chairman opened the meeting and made a statement. A statement was also made by the Co-Chairman and Secretary-General of the International Chamber of Commerce.

14. Before the panel discussion, the Commission viewed a video message by the Secretary-General of the United Nations.

15. Statements were also made by the Deputy Secretary-General of ITU and the Assistant Director-General of WHO.

16. The Commission then held a first part of the panel discussion on the theme "How are innovative uses of information and communications technology concretely contributing to achieving individual goals and targets?", moderated by a member of the Board of Petroplus Holdings of Switzerland.

17. The following panellists made brief presentations and engaged in a dialogue with the representatives of France and Jamaica: the Minister of Communication and

[5] Full summary of the panel discussion is available from www.unctad.org/cstd.

New Technologies of Mali; the Director-General of the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation; the Vice-President of Technology and Policy, Nokia; Professor C. K. Prahalad of the University of Michigan; Chris Kabwato of the University of Rhodes at Grahamstown; and the Executive Director of the Association for Progressive Communications.

18. The representatives of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and the International Labour Organization (ILO) as well as the representative of the Conference of Non-Governmental Organizations in Consultative Relationship with the United Nations also took part in the dialogue.

19. The Commission held a second part of its panel discussion on the theme "What will it take to stimulate and support information and communication technology innovation in developing countries?", moderated by Hilary Bowker, former anchorwoman for CNN.

20. The following panellists made brief presentations and engaged in a dialogue with the delegations of Italy and Turkey: the Deputy Minister of Science, Technology and Innovation of Malaysia; the Leading Professor of the Global Change, Information and Research Centre of the Chinese Academy of Sciences; the Deputy Director-General and Scientific Director of the European Organization for Nuclear Research; the Vice-President for Employability Programmes of the International Youth Foundation; the Senior Vice-President of the Public Sector and Education Global Business Unit of the Oracle Corporation; and the Director of the Knowledge Communications, International Institute for Sustainable Development.

21. The representatives of Panos South Asia, the Digital Alliance Foundation and the eWorld Wide Group also took part in the dialogue.

22. At the 4th meeting, on 22 May, before the third part of the panel discussion, a statement on the theme "Liberating digital opportunities for all" was made by the Chief Executive Officer of the Orange Company.

23. The Commission then held a third part of its panel discussion on "Are there information and communication technology innovations that are truly making value at the bottom of the pyramid?", moderated by the Senior Director of CISCO Systems.

24. The following panellists made a brief presentation and engaged in a dialogue with the delegations of Jamaica and Chile: the Chief Researcher and Vice-President of the Science Office of Sun Microsystems; an information and communication technology consultant; the Executive Director of CatGen; a representative of Telecommunication Development Bureau, ITU; and the Director of the Division for Services Infrastructure for Development and Trade Efficiency, UNCTAD.

25. The representatives of WHO and the eWorld Wide Group also took part.

26. The Commission held a fourth part of its panel discussion on the theme "What innovative uses of information and communication technology and partnerships are delivering e-government services?", moderated by the Assistant Director-General for Communication and Information, UNESCO.

27. The following panellists made a brief presentation and engaged in a dialogue with the delegation of Jamaica and the representative of WHO; the Minister for Communication Technology of Tunisia; a representative of the International

Parliamentarians Association for information technology and Member of the National Assembly of Bulgaria; and representatives of IT for Change, the ST Microelectronics Foundation, Panos South Asia, and the Library of the University of Lausanne, International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions.

28. At the 9th meeting, on 25 May, the Rapporteur made a statement and, on behalf of the Bureau and the Commission, expressed appreciation for the organization of the joint Commission-Global Alliance for Information and Communication Technology and Development panel discussion held on 22 May, as an important platform for multi-stakeholder inputs into the policy dialogue of the Commission, and called on the UNCTAD secretariat and the Alliance to continue the organization of similar events during the future sessions of the Commission.

29. During the discussion, the panel focused on four themes: innovative uses of information and communications technology in achieving development goals and targets; stimulating and supporting information and communications technology innovation in developing countries; information and communications technology innovations that make "value at the bottom of the pyramid"; and innovative uses of information and communications technology and partnerships in delivering e-government services. Panellists included representatives of international organizations, the civil society, non-governmental organizations and business entities.[6]

30. Participants in the discussion were informed of the new findings of the World Information Society Report 2007 by UNCTAD and the International Telecommunication Union (ITU),[7] which indicated that access to information and communications technologies was increasing in developing nations, in particular in mobile telephony, and that the distribution of information and communications technology services was becoming more equitable. The gap in penetration rates between developed economies and developing nations was narrowing for basic information and communications technologies, such as fixed-telephone lines, mobile phones and television sets. At the current rates of growth, it was likely that the World Summit goal of half the world's population having access to information and communications technologies would be reached by 2008, at least for mobile phones. However, wide gaps were found to be evident in newer technologies, such as broadband and third-generation mobile. The digital divide was changing from inequalities in basic availability of information and communications technologies to differences in the quality of user experience. Policymakers were called on to adjust their policy responses to take account of quality, not just the quantity of access to information and communications technology.

31. Participants concluded that information and communications technology had a vital role in development, but massive investments and the involvement of the private sector were needed for benefits to accrue. Information and communications technology alone was insufficient to promote development. Improving access to information would not be enough to bring about poverty reduction. Participants strongly emphasized a bottom-up approach, whereby people could choose according to their needs and priorities.

[6] A full summary of the panel discussion is available on the Commission website: www.unctad.org/cstd.

[7] www.itu.int/osg/spu/publications/worldinformationsociety/2007/html.

32. A number of participants noted that mobile telephony could produce "value at the bottom of the pyramid". Mobile phones were helping to reduce transaction costs, broaden trade networks, improve the provision of market information and rationalize the supply chain through better logistics management. To achieve open access to information for all, Governments and firms needed to develop a "symbiotic relationship". In view of their poverty reduction effects and positive impact on income and gross domestic product, it was "misguided policy" to consider telecoms "cash cows", and to tax telecoms equipment and usage as luxury goods.

33. Participants noted that further benefits of information and communications technology for development depended on the deployment of wireless broadband, as it permitted the transfer and sharing of more complex information on health and education. Mobile broadband would benefit from freeing up wireless spectrum, from using the spectrum more efficiently and from deploying network management technology. Regulation of wireless spectrum should be liberalized. Some participants stressed the need to further reduce the power requirements of mobile telephony to make access to the technology possible in countries and areas within countries where the basic power infrastructure needed for most information and communications technology was unavailable.

34. Some participants called on Governments to facilitate information and communications technology innovation by careful deregulation and by removing barriers to private sector participation. A number of participants observed that while simply deregulating the telecoms industry might promote telephony, it would not improve key connectivity and access, and regulatory systems should instead be designed with that goal in mind. Some participants expressed the concern that Governments, especially in developing countries, were increasingly falling behind in their ability to effectively regulate the technology.

35. National policies and the various means to achieving increased access and innovation at the national level were also addressed. There was general agreement that national policies were a key to stimulating innovation. Governments could aim to facilitate technological innovation by careful deregulation, removing barriers to private sector participation, improving access, promoting information and communications technology activity and a good e-environment nationally, promoting public-private partnerships and other types of partnerships and multi-stakeholder projects, developing open access to data and open source technologies, establishing research centres, e-learning networks and research activity more broadly, investing in people (especially young people) and providing relevant education and training.

36. Participants noted that access to information and communications technology was still insufficient in rural areas, and fixed-line telephony and Internet access were still unsatisfactory in Africa, where, in spite of much progress and the world's fastest-growing mobile phone markets, 23 countries still had less than 10 per cent penetration of mobile services among their population.

37. It was observed that, while many countries had incorporated information and communications technology into their development strategies, most poverty reduction plans did not consider it an integral tool. Policies using information and communications technology for poverty reduction had not yet been implemented.

Lack of access penalized poor people in terms of economic opportunity, health and education, as well as their general ability to make their voices heard.

38. Participants pointed out that much of the financing to improve access was done on a project basis with donor funding. Many of those projects never achieved financial sustainability and were terminated once funding ran out. The solution was to perhaps to persuade Governments and firms that commercial success and the delivery of social services were mutually reinforcing, rather than mutually exclusive. For instance, using mobile phones in tracking the development of an epidemic could lessen its negative economic impact.

39. Several speakers highlighted the role of e-government to unleash local capacities by localizing and decentralizing public institutions and administrations. E-government allowed Government ministries or public entities to improve their interface with the public. E-government depositories, for example, had become the first access point for companies and individuals seeking information on e-government processes and documentation, such as administrative documents, forms, tax information, business regulations and voting procedures. E-government could also help reduce corruption, for instance by randomly assigning cases to judges through information systems and by posting verdicts online.

40. A number of participants argued that, to increase transparency and improve accountability, national and local public institutions should perhaps retain information under public ownership and refrain from privatizing data or using proprietary data formats. Free and open-source technologies and open data formats would help to ensure open access to public data. Speakers also noted that many e-government Internet portals were still not well connected to back office operations and needed improvements in the quality of service. One technical challenge was interoperability.

41. With regard to the item on the implementation of and progress made on decisions taken at the ninth session of the Commission, the participants called for reinforcing international cooperation in the fields of science, technology and innovation. The Commission was strongly encouraged to continue its collaboration with the UNCTAD secretariat in carrying out concrete projects in areas such as science, technology and innovation policy reviews, networks of centres of excellence and Connect Africa.

42. The participants welcomed the multi-stakeholder approach of the tenth session made possible by Council decisions 2007/215 and 2007/216 of 26 April 2007. It was underscored that multi-stakeholder partnership was the key to building a people-centred, development-oriented and inclusive information society.

Action taken by the Commission

Flow of information for the follow-up of the World Summit on the Information Society

43. At its 7th meeting, on 24 May, the Commission had before it, under agenda item 2, an informal paper containing the text of a draft proposal, submitted by the Chairman on behalf of the Bureau of the Commission, entitled "Science and technology for development".

44. At the same meeting, the representative of El Salvador introduced, under agenda item 3, a text of a draft proposal entitled "Flow of information for the follow-up of the World Summit on the Information Society", submitted on behalf of the Group of the Latin American and Caribbean States, circulated in an informal paper.

45. Also at the same meeting, statements were made by the representatives of Austria, Angola, the Islamic Republic of Iran, El Salvador, the United States of America, Brazil, Germany, Switzerland, Lesotho, Chile, India, France, Oman, Canada, the Russian Federation (also on behalf of the Group of Eastern European States), Honduras (on behalf of the Group of 77 and China) and China.

46. Statements were also made by the representatives of non-governmental organizations, the Conference of Non-Governmental Organizations in Consultative Relationship with the United Nations and IT for Change.

47. At its 8th meeting, on 25 May, the Commission had before it a draft resolution, submitted by the Chairman, entitled "Flow of information for the follow-up of the World Summit on the Information Society", which was a result of informal consultations held on the text introduced previously by El Salvador, on behalf of the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States, and the text proposed by the Chairman, on behalf of the Bureau of the Commission.

48. The Commission was informed that the draft resolution contained no programme budget implications.

49. Following statements by the representatives of El Salvador, Belgium, the United States of America, China, Cuba, Germany, Latvia, India, Brazil and the Dominican Republic, the Commission recommended the draft resolution to the Economic and Social Council for adoption (see chap. I, sect. A).

Chapter IV

Implementation of and progress made on decisions taken at the ninth session of the Commission

1. The Commission considered item 4 of its agenda at its 6th meeting, on 23 May 2007. It had before it a note by the secretariat on the implementation of and progress made on decisions taken at the ninth session of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development (E/CN.16/2007/3).

2. At the same meeting, the Commission heard an introductory statement by the Chief of the Science and Technology Section of UNCTAD.

3. Statements were made by the representatives of Cuba, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Jamaica, India, the United States, the Russian Federation and Brazil.

Draft decision proposed by the Chairman

4. At its 9th meeting, on 25 May, on the proposal of the Chairman, the Commission decided to take note of the note by the secretariat on the implementation of and progress made on decisions taken at the ninth session of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development (E/CN.16/2007/3) (see chap. I, sect. C, decision 10/102).

Chapter V

Election of the Chairperson and other officers for the eleventh session of the Commission

1. At its 9th meeting, on 25 May 2007, the Commission considered item 5 of its agenda and elected by acclamation the following officers for its eleventh session:

Chairman:

Dato' Sri Jamuludin Jarjis (Malaysia)

Vice-Chairmen:

Juan Eduardo Eguiguren (Chile)
Janis Karklins (Latvia)
Mothetjoa Metsing (Lesotho)
Bernd Michael Rode (Austria)

2. The Commission agreed to postpone the designation of one of the Vice-Chairmen as Rapporteur to a later date.

Chapter VI

Provisional agenda and documentation for the eleventh session of the Commission

1. The Commission considered item 6 of its agenda at its 9th meeting, on 25 May 2006. It had before it an informal paper containing the draft provisional agenda for its eleventh session.

2. At the same meeting, following a statement by the representative of Cuba, the Commission approved the draft provisional agenda and documentation for its eleventh session and recommended it to the Economic and Social Council for adoption (see chap. I, sect. B).

Chapter VII
Adoption of the report of the Commission on its tenth session

1. At the 9th meeting, on 25 May 2007, the Vice-Chairperson and Rapporteur of the Commission introduced the draft report of the Commission on its tenth session (E/CN.16/2007/L.1).

2. At the same meeting, following statements by the representatives of the United States of America, Cuba and El Salvador, the Commission adopted the draft report on its tenth session, as orally revised, and entrusted the Rapporteur with its completion.

Chapter VIII
Organization of the session

A. Opening and duration of the session

1. The Commission on Science and Technology for Development held its tenth session at the United Nations Office at Geneva from 21 to 25 May 2007. The Commission held nine meetings (1st to 9th).

2. The session was opened by the Chairman, who also made an opening statement.

3. At the 1st meeting, on 21 May, the Secretary-General of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development addressed the Commission.

4. At the same meeting, the following speakers addressed the Commission: the former President of Switzerland, Head of the Federal Department of the Environment, Transport, Energy and Communications of Switzerland, host country of the first phase of the World Summit on the Information Society; the Minister of Communication Technologies of Tunisia, host country of the second phase of the World Summit; and the Deputy Prime Minister of Slovakia for Knowledge-Based Society, European Affairs, Human Rights and Minorities.

5. Also at the same meeting, statements were made by the Director-General of the European Organization for Nuclear Research; the Deputy Secretary-General of ITU; the Assistant Director-General for Communication and Information, UNESCO; the Assistant Director-General for Information, Evidence and Research, WHO; the Secretary-General of the International Chamber of Commerce; and the Executive Director of the Association for Progressive Communications.

B. Attendance

6. The session was attended by representatives of all States members of the Commission. Observers for other States Members of the United Nations, representatives of organizations of the United Nations system and observers for intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations also attended. The list of participants for the session is contained in document E/CN.16/2007/INF/2.

C. Election of officers

7. At its 9th meeting of its ninth session, on 18 May 2006, the Commission had elected the following members of the Bureau for its tenth session by acclamation:

Chairman:
Štefan Morávek (Slovakia)

Vice-Chairmen:
Motsoahae Thomas Thabane (Lesotho)
Hilal Al-Hinai (Oman)
Bernd Michael Rode (Austria)
Arnoldo Ventura (Jamaica)

8. At its 1st meeting of the tenth session, on 21 May, the Commission appointed Arnoldo Ventura (Jamaica), in addition to serving as Vice-Chairman, to serve as Rapporteur of the tenth session of the Commission.

9. At its 2nd meeting of its tenth session, on 22 May, the Commission elected Mothetjoa Metsing (Lesotho) to replace Motsoahe Thomas Thabane (Lesotho), who was unable to carry out his duties as Vice-Chairman of the tenth session of the Commission.

D. Agenda and organization of work

10. At its 1st meeting, on 21 May 2007, the Commission adopted its provisional agenda and approved its organization of work (E/CN.16/2007/1). The agenda read as follows:

1. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters.
2. Substantive theme: "Promoting the building of a people-centred, development-oriented and inclusive information society, with a view to enhancing digital opportunities for all people".
3. Progress made in the implementation of and follow-up to the World Summit on the Information Society outcomes at the regional and international levels.
4. Implementation of and progress made on decisions taken at the ninth session of the Commission.
5. Election of the Chairperson and other officers for the eleventh session of the Commission.
6. Provisional agenda and documentation for the eleventh session of the Commission.
7. Adoption of the report of the Commission on its tenth session.

E. Participation of non-governmental organizations, civil society and business sector entities, including the private sector, in the work of the Commission

11. At its 11th meeting, on 27 May 2007, the Commission agreed that non-governmental organizations and civil society entities that were not in consultative status with the Council but that had received accreditation to the World Summit on the Information Society might participate in the session of the Commission, in accordance with Council decision 2007/215, and that business sector entities, including the private sector, accredited to the World Summit might participate in the work of the Commission, in accordance with Council decision 2007/216.

Annex

List of documents before the Commission at its tenth session

Document symbol	*Agenda item*	*Title or description*
E/CN.16/2007/1	1	Provisional annotated agenda and organization of work
E/CN.16/2007/2	2	Report of the Secretary-General on promoting the building of a people-centred, development-oriented and inclusive information society: progress made in the implementation of and follow-up to the World Summit on the Information Society outcomes
E/CN.16/2007/3	3	Note by the secretariat on the implementation of and progress made on decisions taken at the ninth session of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development
E/CN.16/2007/L.1	7	Draft report of the Commission on its tenth session
E/CN.16/2007/CRP.1*	2	Report on the panel discussion on promoting the building of a people-centred, development-oriented and inclusive information society
E/CN.16/2007/CRP.2*	4	Note by the secretariat on activities undertaken by relevant United Nations entities in the implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society

* Available from www.unctad.org/cstd.

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